

## Sexual Behavior

Many sexual behaviors and practices impact the health of the population. For example, consistent use of contraceptives, including condoms, prevents the occurrence of unplanned pregnancies. Use of condoms also prevents the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (See Maternal and Infant Health, Chapter Three, for more about birth outcomes including teen births). This chapter focuses primarily on failure to use condoms and other behavior practices among adults and youth that increase the risk for sexually transmitted diseases. Data on sexual practices and health outcomes are limited to surveillance systems that track the incidence of specific diseases and health interview surveys that collect self-reported information on sexual practices.

- In 1998 the majority of AIDS cases in Los Angeles County (67%) were attributed to sexual transmission of HIV.
- The results of the 1997 Los Angeles County Health Survey (1997 LACHS), indicate that approximately 6% of all adults in Los Angeles County were at increased risk for HIV or another sexually transmitted disease based on having had more than one sexual partner during the previous year and not always using a condom.
- Among men who had sex with a man in the past 12 months, 34% had more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months and reported not always using a condom (1997 LACHS).
- Among men who had sex with a woman in the past 12 months, 7% had sex with more than one female partner in the past 12 months and did not always use a condom.
- Among women who had sex with a man, 3% had sex with more than one male partner in the past 12 months and did not always use a condom.
- Among sexually active high school students, 50% of females and 60% of males used condoms when they last had sexual intercourse (1997 YRBS-Los Angeles Unified School District).
- Approximately 13% of high school students (19% of males and 7% of females) had four or more sexual partners in the year preceding the administration of the 1997 Los Angeles Youth Risk Behavior Survey (LAUSD).

Additional information about sexual risk behaviors can be found in Table 3.2.

## Sexual Behavior—Data Sources

1. Los Angeles County Department of Health Services—Public Health  
Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology  
1997 Los Angeles County Health Survey

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2. California Department of Health Services  
CATI Unit  
California Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

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3. United States Department of Health Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Epidemiology Program Office, MMWR Series

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4. Los Angeles County Department of Health Services  
HIV Epidemiology Program

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*See Appendix for complete references on these and other data resources.*

**Table 3.2: Sexual Behavioral Risk Factors, 1997, Los Angeles County, California, Year 2000 Objectives**

	<b>L.A. County</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>HP 2000</b>
<b>Condom use in the last 12 months among sexually active adults, 18 years and older<sup>1</sup></b>			
Total	43%	*	*
Male	48%	*	*
Female	37%	*	*
<b>High school students who used condom during last sexual intercourse among sexually active high school students<sup>2,3,4</sup></b>			
Total	54%	56%	*
Male	60%	63%	75% <sup>5</sup>
Female	50%	50%	60% <sup>5</sup>
<b>More than one sexual partner in the last 12 months among adults, 18 years and older<sup>1</sup></b>			
Total	10%	*	*
Male	15%	*	*
Female	4%	*	*
<b>High school students who have had four or more sexual partners during lifetime<sup>2,3,4</sup></b>			
Total	13%	12%	*
Male	19%	15%	*
Female	7%	9%	*
<b>AIDS cases diagnosed by risk of transmission in 1997:<sup>6,7</sup></b>			
<b>Males</b>			
Male-male sexual contact	64%	*	*
Male-male sexual contact/IDU	5%	*	*
IDU	7%	*	*
Male heterosexual contact <sup>8</sup>	3%	*	*
<b>Females</b>			
IDU	25%	*	*
Female heterosexual contact <sup>8</sup>	45%	*	*
<b>HIV test administered in past 2 years, adults 18 years and older<sup>1</sup></b>			
White	30%	*	*
Latino	43%	*	*
African-American	47%	*	*
Asian	26%	*	*
<b>High school students who received HIV/AIDS prevention education in school<sup>2,3,4</sup></b>			
Total	85%	92%	*
Male	88%	92%	*
Female	83%	91%	*
<b>High school students who have talked about HIV/AIDS with parents or adult family members<sup>2,3,4</sup></b>			
Total	59%	61%	*
Male	54%	57%	*
Female	64%	64%	*

\* Data not available

1. 1997 LACHS, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

2. Weighted data from Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

3. Unweighted California data did not include students from the LAUSD.

4. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance( YRBS)-United States, 1997, MMWR, CDC.

5. Sexually active males and females 15–19 years of age.

6. Advanced HIV disease (AIDS) cases diagnosed in 1997.

7. Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, HIV Epidemiology Program, Advanced HIV Disease (AIDS) Quarterly Surveillance Summary, Issued January 15, 2000.

8. Heterosexual contact with a person who is HIV-infected or at increased risk for HIV.